

City of Cambridge
Massachusetts

C.R.

PARK DEPARTMENT

ANNUAL REPORTS

1913

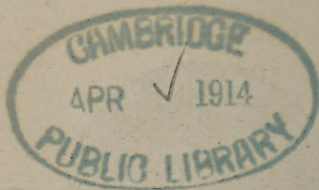


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Park Department
Annual Reports
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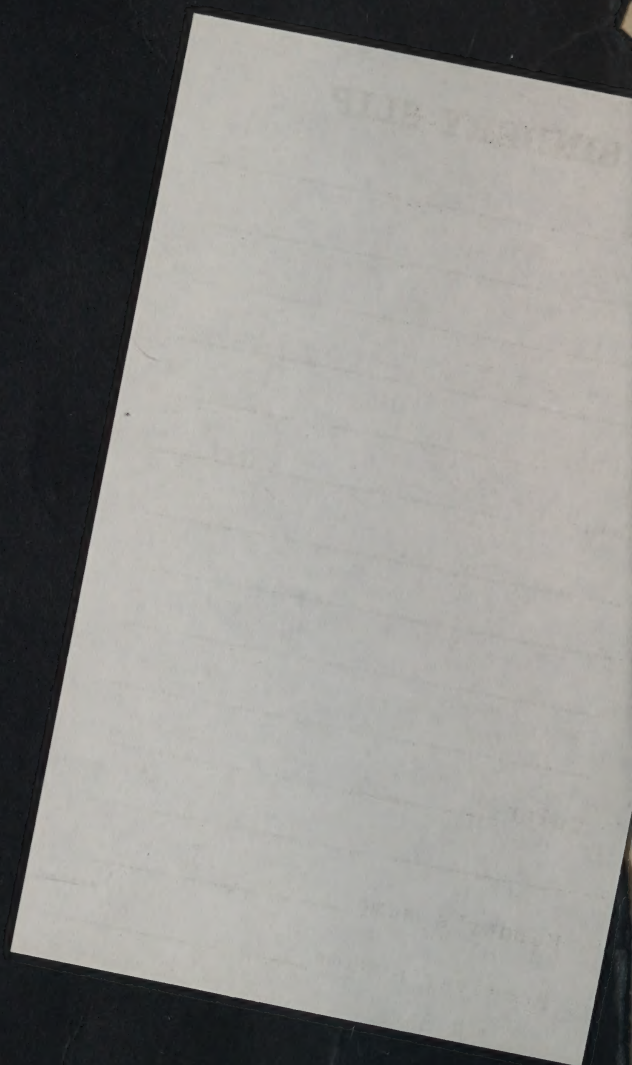
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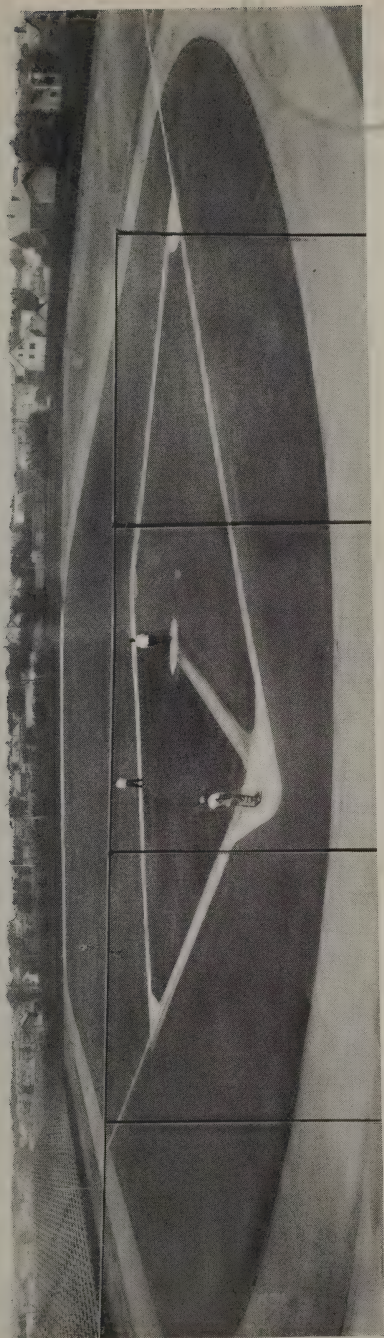
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RUSSELL FIELD

REPORT OF BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS

To the Honorable, the City Council of the City of Cambridge:

Gentlemen: The Board of Park Commissioners has the honor to submit herewith its twentieth annual report covering the municipal year March 31st, 1913, together with the nineteenth annual report of the General Superintendent of Parks, as required by Section 4 of the Ordinances establishing a Park Department.

The number of Park Commissioners has been increased from three to five the past year, and the construction and maintenance of the various playgrounds throughout the City, formerly the work of the Playground Commission, has been turned over to this Commission.

PLAYGROUNDS

The development of the playground system is one of the most important problems that will confront the Board of Park Commissioners the coming year. The city is fortunate in having plenty of land set aside for this purpose, and the important thing to be considered is the rapid completion of the work.

It is the intention of the Commissioners to develop six large and up-to-date playgrounds as follows: Thorndike Field, Cambridge Field, Captain's Island, the Mill Pond, Rindge Field and Russell Field. Besides these there are a number of school yards intended to be developed into playgrounds, as follows: Merrill, Roberts, Peabody, Morse, Fletcher, Wellington, Houghton, Gore, Taylor, Willard and Sleeper.

Some of the school yards which it is desired to equip for playground purposes are and must remain in the control of the School Board. In order therefore to carry out these plans it is necessary that satisfactory arrangements must be arrived at between the two Boards.

However, in the past the School Board has always shown a willingness to co-operate with the Park Commissioners in the furtherance of this good work.

PLAYGROUND IN WARD 8

Permission has been granted by the Metropolitan Park Commission for the construction of a playground between Western Avenue and Boylston Street, and the Commissioners have a site in view near the foot of DeWolfe Street, bordering on the Charles River Basin.

RUSSELL FIELD

An important event in the history of the City was the completion last year of the new athletic field, built for the use of the school boys of Cambridge. A field of this kind has been the fond desire of every pupil who has attended the Rindge School and the Cambridge Latin School for the past twenty years. In this connection too much credit cannot be given His Honor, Mayor Barry, for providing this magnificent recreation ground for the schoolboys of the City. Credit should also be given to the members of the former Playground Commission, Messrs. Shea, Buckley, Beale, Valley and Riley, under whose direction the plan of the field was drawn.

Russell Field was built primarily for the use of the Rindge and Latin Schools. It is located in North Cambridge, with access from Rindge Avenue and Dudley Street, and within five minutes' walk of the electric and steam accommodations. The field will furnish accommodations for all the different sports, ample in extent, including a football gridiron, two baseball fields, quarter-mile track, with runs for the different athletic events, viewing accommodations from two concrete grandstands, seating 8,000 people, accommodations for locker use and a ticket booth also being included. The enclosed field covers an area of seven acres. There is room for two baseball games to be played at the same time, with no interference from the fielders.

A quarter mile cinder track varying from 15 to 20 feet in width was laid out to admit of a 100 yard straight-a-way track 20 feet wide and also a 220 yard stretch of the same width, but continued around the curve at the lower end, both runs finishing opposite the grandstand. Within the enclosure of the running track is the area to be used as a football field and which is ample for the purpose named.



Locker Building, Russell Field

Also, within the track enclosure, but at the opposite end, is the area for use as a baseball field, with the diamond area raised six inches at the pitcher's box and sloping to the grade of the base lines. The diamond area was covered with 12 inches of loam and then sodded. The base lines are of cinder and loam construction with a loam surface to avoid injury from sliding or falling. The pitcher's and catcher's boxes are of clay construction in order to insure the firmness of the surface when in use.

In front of the grandstands and adjacent to the baseball diamond have been laid out runs for the different athletic events, viz.: the broad jumps, hop-step-jump, high jumps, pole vaults, shot-put, etc., constructed of cinders and loam, with the landing places of the jumps loamed to a depth of eighteen inches. All the area to be turf has been fertilized and sown with a suitable seed mixture, and the whole area of the field is level excepting the diamond before mentioned. Cinder paths for spectators have been constructed from the main entrance to and in front of the grandstands. For purposes of observation, two concrete grandstands of ingenious design and construction have been built, one along the north side and opposite the 100 yard straight-a-way and the other fronting the baseball diamond. The size of the football stand is 420 feet long, and of the baseball stand 120 feet. A locker building with toilet and shower accommodations has also been built close to the main entrance and within easy distance of the field proper. A ticket booth has been erected at the entrance with turnstile approaches and accommodations for ticker arrangements when necessary.

The locker building has room for between 300 to 400 double lockers. This will prove ample for the football squads of the Rindge School and the Latin School at the same time, and also leave ample locker room for the visiting team.

The Field is not limited to simply the enclosed portion but covers an area of about twenty-two acres. There is room outside the enclosed field for the laying out of two and possibly three baseball diamonds and at least one regulation size football field and tennis courts.

The completion of the field opens up entirely new problems, one of which will be the proper division of the receipts taken in from games played by the Rindge Technical and Cambridge Latin School teams. The head masters of both these schools have shown a willingness to co-operate with this Board in arriving at a satisfactory settlement of this important problem.

With the income that it is hoped will be derived from the gate receipts we believe it will prove not only a profitable investment for the City but will enable its two high schools to maintain their proper plane in the athletic standing among the high schools of Greater Boston, as well as assist greatly in the physical development of hundreds who may not be selected to make up the different teams.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

PARK LOANS

Amount of unused balance of 1911 appropriation reappropriated April 4th, 1912	\$3,589 02
Amount appropriated July 8th, 1912	50,000 00
	<hr/>
	\$53,589 02

PLAYGROUND LOANS

Amount of unused balance of 1911 appropriation reappropriated April 4th, 1912	\$23,748 09
Amount appropriated August 9th, 1912	35,000 00
	<hr/>
	\$58,748 09

PARK MAINTENANCE

River Parkway, Sections A, B, D, F, G and H:		
Amount appropriated June 3d, 1912:		\$8,367 00
Cambridge Field and Shelter:		
Amount appropriated June 3d, 1912	\$6,679 50	
Amount appropriated October 31st, 1912	300 00	
	<hr/>	6,979 50
Brown Tail Moth and Elm Leaf Beetle Extermination:		
Amount appropriated June 3d, 1912	\$6,000 00	
Amount transferred March 6th, 1913, from Maintenance, Thorndike Field	500 00	
Amount transferred March 6th, 1913, from Maintenance, Rindge Field	200 00	
Amount appropriated March 7th, 1913	100 00	
	<hr/>	6,800 00
Shade Trees:		
Amount appropriated June 3d, 1912	\$5,000 00	
Amount transferred October 10th, 1912, to Maintenance, Removal Dead Trees	202 28	
	<hr/>	\$4,797 72
Amount transferred November 14th, 1912, from Maintenance, Floating Bath House	234 47	
	<hr/>	5,032 19
Commons, Squares and Public Grounds:		
Amount appropriated June 3d, 1912		4,942 00

Rindge Field:		
Amount appropriated June 3d, 1912.....	\$3,898 86	
Amount appropriated June 20th, 1912	300 00	
	<hr/>	
	\$4,198 86	
Amount transferred March 6th, 1913, to Maintenance, Brown Tail Moth Ex.....	200 00	
	<hr/>	
		\$3,998 86
Removal Dead Trees:		
Amount appropriated June 3d, 1912.....	\$3,500 00	
Amount transferred October 10th, 1912, from Maintenance, Shade Trees	202 28	
	<hr/>	
		3,702 28
Salaries—Playgrounds:		
Amount appropriated June 3d, 1912.....	\$2,750 00	
Amount appropriated August 8th, 1912	325 00	
	<hr/>	
	\$3,075 00	
Amount transferred November 14th, 1912, to Maintenance, General Account	79 50	
	<hr/>	
		2,995 50
Salaries—Office:		
Amount appropriated June 3d, 1912.....		2,790 46
Bath House:		
Amount appropriated June 3d, 1912.....	\$1,725 00	
Amount transferred November 14th, 1912, from Maintenance, Floating Bath House	135 63	
	<hr/>	
		1,860 63
General Account:		
Amount appropriated June 3d, 1912.....	\$1,511 00	
Amount transferred June 24th, 1912, to Street Department, Maintenance	432 00	
	<hr/>	
	\$1,079 00	
Amount transferred September 16th, 1912, from Maintenance, Street Department	125 00	
	<hr/>	
	\$1,204 00	
Amount transferred November 14th, 1912		
from Maintenance, Floating Bath House.....	100 00	
from Maintenance, General Expenses.....	133 92	
from Maintenance, Salaries, Playgrounds	79 50	
Amount transferred March 6th, 1913,		
from Maintenance, Thorndike Field	50 00	
	<hr/>	
		1,567 42
Floating Bath House:		
Amount appropriated June 3d, 1912.....	\$1,226 00	
Amount transferred November 14th, 1912,		
to Maintenance, Bath House	\$135 65	
to Maintenance, General Acct.	100 00	
to Maintenance, Shade Trees	234 47	
	<hr/>	
	470 10	755 90
General Expenses—Playgrounds:		
Amount appropriated June 3d, 1912.....	500 00	
Amount appropriated August 9th, 1912	375 00	
	<hr/>	
	\$875 00	
Amount transferred November 14th, 1912, to Maintenance, General Account	133 92	
	<hr/>	
		741 08

Dana Square:		
Amount appropriated June 20th, 1912		\$500 00
Thorndike Field:		
Amount appropriated October 3d, 1912	\$1,000 00	
Amount transferred March 6th, 1913, to Maintenance, Brown Tail Moth Extermination	500 00	
	<u>\$500 00</u>	
Amount transferred March 6th, 1913, to Maintenance, General Account	50 00	450 00
Longfellow Park:		
Amount appropriated June 3d, 1912		250 00

During the year bills payable from Park Loans have been approved by the Board and certified to the Auditor to the total amount of \$27,955.80, as follows:

PARK LANDS AND CONSTRUCTION

River Parkway, Section A:		
Construction account	\$8,623 53	
River Parkway, Section C:		
Construction account	8,599 80	
River Parkway, Section D:		
Construction account	6,038 20	
River Parkway, Section E:		
Construction account	11 07	
Floating Bath House:		
Construction account	3,460 00	
Dana Square:		
Construction account	1,111 42	
Granolithic Walks, Cambridge Field, and Rearrangement Memorial Gateway, Cambridge Common:		
Construction account	111 78	
Amount expended		27,955 80
Balance unexpended		<u>\$24,733 22</u>

During the year bills payable from Playground Loans have been approved by the Board and certified to the Auditor as follows:

Land for Playgrounds:		
Land account	\$600 00	
Russell Field:		
Construction account	28,925 61	
Construction and Equipment:		
Construction account	19,098 55	
Amount expended		\$48,624 16
Balance unexpended		<u>\$10,123 93</u>

During the year bills payable from Park and Playground Maintenance have been approved by the Board and certified to the Auditor as follows:

	Amount Expended	Balance Unexpended
River Parkway, Sections A, B, D, F, G and H	\$8,310 45	\$56 55
Brown Tail Moth and Elm Leaf Beetle Extermination..	6,759 08	40 92
Cambridge Field and Shelter	6,983 81	.....
Shade Trees	5,030 12	2 07
Commons, Squares and Public Grounds	4,941 66	34
Rindge Field and Shelter	3,983 71	15 15
Removal Dead Trees	3,702 28	.....
Salaries—Playgrounds	2,995 50	.....
Salaries—Office	2,779 34	11 12
General Account	1,563 19	4 23
Bath House	1,860 63	.....
Floating Bath House	755 90	.....
General Expenses—Playgrounds	741 08	.....
Dana Square	497 52	2 48
Thorndike Field	424 83	17
Longfellow Park	244 14	5 86
Merrill School Yard	21 37	3 63

A detailed classification of the expenditures will be found in the report of the General Superintendent.

Since the beginning of the work in 1893 there has been expended to date of money raised under Park and Esplanade Loans the sum of \$1,638,746.93.

The division is as follows:

River Parkway, Section A:		
Construction account.....	\$180,960 84	
Land account	9,416 83	\$190,377 67
River Parkway, Section B:		
Construction account.....	111,530 32	111,530 32
River Parkway, Section C:		
Construction account.....	123,312 86	
Land account	31,701 08	155,013 94
River Parkway, Section D:		
Construction account.....	128,810 72	
Land account	95,047 25	223,857 97
River Parkway, Section E:		
Construction account.....	1,270 77	
Land account	67,145 00	68,415 77
River Parkway, Section F:		
Construction account.....	69,912 84	
Land account	67,491 62	137,404 46
River Parkway, Section G:		
Construction account.....	121,117 78	
Land account	86,824 82	207,942 60

River Parkway, Section H:		
Construction account.....	\$13,135 30	\$13,135 30
River Parkway, Delta, Cambridge Bridge:		
Construction account.....	927 83	927 83
Rebuilding Sea Walls:		
Construction account.....	10,887 89	10,887 89
Cambridge Field:		
Construction account.....	128,513 59	
Land account	78,884 85	207,398 44
East Cambridge Embankment:		
Construction account.....	102,897 93	
Land account	45,231 40	148,129 33
General Account:		
Construction account.....	55,352 45	55,352 45
Rindge Field:		
Construction account.....	19,307 86	
Land account	31,461 95	50,769 71
Office Expenses:		
Construction account.....	15,915 29	15,915 29
Broadway:		
Construction account.....	11,635 27	11,635 27
Nursery:		
Construction account.....	9,240 49	9,240 49
Improvements at Rindge Field:		
Construction account.....	7,788 98	7,788 98
Hastings Square:		
Construction account.....	2,683 07	2,683 07
Baths and Lockers:		
Construction account.....	2,500 00	2,500 00
Winthrop Square:		
Construction account.....	1,866 26	1,866 26
Shower Baths and Heating Apparatus, Rindge Field:		
Construction account.....	1,891 10	1,891 10
Dana Square:		
Construction account.....	1,111 42	1,111 42
Mill Pond:		
Construction account.....	999 77	999 77
Fort Washington:		
Construction account.....	929 79	929 79
Washington Elm:		
Construction account.....	466 98	466 98
Memorial Gateway, Cambridge Common:		
Construction account.....	565 07	565 07
Porter Square:		
Construction account.....	20 87	20 87

Floating Bath House:		
Construction account.....	\$4,483 28	\$4,483 28
		<hr/>
		\$1,643,241 32
Less Park Revenue for 1894 and 1896 merged into land and construction accounts		4,494 39
		<hr/>
		\$1,638,746 93

Of the whole amount of Park Loans expended to April 1, 1913, 31 per cent has been for land and 69 per cent for construction, as follows,

Land account (less revenues)	\$508,710 31
Construction account	1,130,036 62
	<hr/>
	\$1,638,746 93

Respectfully submitted,

DANIEL A. BUCKLEY,
WILLIAM M. WADDEN,
DAVID J. NELLIGAN,
JOHN T. SHEA,
JOHN J. AHERN,

Park Commissioners.

REPORT OF GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT OF PARKS

Cambridge, April 1, 1913.

To the Board of Park Commissioners of the City of Cambridge:

Gentlemen: I have the honor to present my seventh annual report as General Superintendent of Parks, covering the financial year of 1913.

SECTION A

(Area, 9.07 acres)

Section A extends from the south line of Main Street as widened for the approach to the new Cambridge Bridge to the west line of the third street east of Massachusetts Avenue.

Work was commenced on this section on November 4.

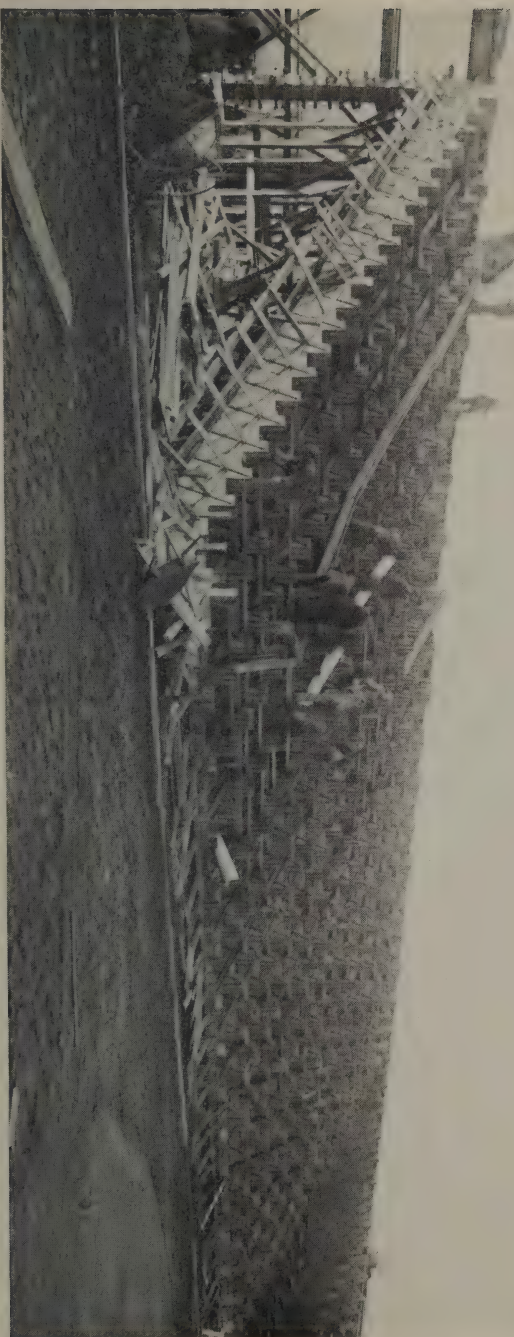
The area 80 feet wide and 1,303 feet long as well as the ribbon strip on the 30 and 40 feet roadways lying between Wadsworth Street and Cambridge Bridge received a covering of loam about 12 inches, leaving it ready for seeding.

The ribbon strips running parallel with the river required some excavating, and the material was used to fill the depressions in the sidewalks.

The thirty foot roadway on the entire section received two coats of oil.

On account of the hauling of the loam several ruts are now visible between Wadsworth Street and the Bridge and should be patched as soon as possible.

The two thirty foot streets that were cut through the centre lawn in 1909 in front of the Exposition Building were filled with loam as these streets are no longer needed, the building not being used for what it was originally intended when the streets were laid out.



Bleachers, Russell Field, Under Construction

Three hundred and eleven feet of iron fence were erected on the sea wall from Wadsworth Street to the Bridge under contract with the W. A. Snow Iron Works at a cost of \$1,445.38 at the rate of \$1.37 per lineal foot. This completes the fence along the entire wall.

About 150 feet of board walk were laid on the sidewalk on First Street under the steps leading to the Bridge.

Nine young trees were planted to replace those that had died.

Four thousand, two hundred and forty-two and two-tenths cubic yards of loam were used at a cost of \$1.23 per cubic yard.

SECTION B

(Area, 19.72 acres)

Section B extends from the west line of the third street east of Massachusetts Avenue to the west line of the fourth street west of the Avenue, but does not include Massachusetts Avenue.

Twenty-six Welsbach lights were maintained during the year.

The usual care was given this section during the year, four men being employed from April 1 to November 1, in cutting grass, cleaning shrubbery beds and walks.

The appropriation for maintenance was sufficient to allow the repairing of the iron fence along the sea wall.

A contract was made with Babcock, Sanborn and Davis to remove all the poor parts of the top rail, about 2,500 feet and to replace same with new three inch boiler tubing at a cost of \$756. This included one coat of red lead and two coats of Grafia. The remaining parts of the top rail and the rest of the fence were thoroughly cleaned with wire brushes and received one coat of red lead and two coats of Grafia. This last work was done by the regular park employees.

The fence is now in good condition and with a coat of paint once in two years at least should last for a long time.

The running through of Ames Street by the Street Department to the Park road required the removal of two trees and one lamp. The trees were replanted on the ribbon strips near the entrance to the new Exposition Building at Section A.

The 30-foot roadway on this Section received two coats of oil and with the exception of a few small ruts east of Massachusetts Avenue, where there is a continuous traffic of automobiles, the road is in first-class condition.

Two trees were replanted.

SECTION C

(Area, 13.39 acres)

Section C extends from the west line of the fourth street west of Massachusetts Avenue to the east line of Brookline Street.

The principal work done on this section was between Brookline Street and the foot of the elevation.

About 1,030 feet of the 30-foot roadway were filled to sub-grade with material purchased from different contractors, the surplus material that was at the Stearns and Fletcher School yards and 255 yards from Mill Pond Playground.

About 2,100 yards of gravel from the beach at the other end of this section were also teamed and placed here.

Considerable filling was received from the Street Department when they were rebuilding Massachusetts Avenue.

About ten inches of cinders were then placed on the surface and were thoroughly rolled with a fifteen ton roller. A tarvia macadam road was then built.

The remaining part of the roadway between the foot of the elevation and Section B, about 2,800 feet, was patched with Tarvia X and gravel, then oiled and rolled. This part of the roadway is in a very poor condition and should be rebuilt with a Tarvia macadam the coming spring.

This is the only piece of gravel road remaining between Cambridge Bridge and River Street.

Thirty-eight tree pits were dug the usual size fourteen feet long, seven and one-half feet wide and four feet deep and filled with loam, leaving them ready for planting.

The ribbon strips between the tree pits were brought to sub-grade and received one foot of loam.

The fifteen-foot sidewalk on both sides of the roadway between Brookline Street and the Bridge was brought to grade and finished.

The sidewalks east of the Bridge require considerable more filling to bring them to grade.

Eighty-two feet of curved edgestone were set at the corner of the Park road and Brookline Street. Sixty feet on the south side, thirty-two feet on the north side.

Three catch basins were built, one here and one half-way between Brookline Street and the Bridge.

The area lying south of the park road between Brookline Street and the railroad track which was used by the Street Department and

Section C, Looking West



others as a dump for years was cleaned, and is now in a fairly presentable condition.

Fifty-six trees were planted.

The following material was received: 266 loads cinders: 1,849.5 cubic yards filling, 844.9 cubic yards loam, 827.95 tons cracked stone.

SECTION D

(Area, 38.31 acres)

Section D extends from the west line of Brookline Street to the south line of River Street.

Twenty-nine Welsbach lights have been maintained until March 20; eighteen on the driveway and eleven on the Island, together with three arc lights on the beach during the bathing season. From March 20 to date, twelve forty-candle power lamps were installed.

The 40-foot roadway between Magazine and River Streets was completed on the same principle as the 30-foot roadway on Section B, namely, Tarvia macadam.

The cracked stone for both these roads was delivered under contract by McCarthy Bros. of Somerville at \$1.40 per ton.

The seven and one-half foot ribbon strips on both sides of the road were finished to grade with loam.

Thirty-seven trees were planted.

The fifteen foot sidewalks between River and Pleasant Streets were graded and finished. The sidewalks between Pleasant and Magazine Streets require about 500 yards of filling to complete them.

Fifty-five feet of curved edgestone were set at the corner of the Park road and River Street; thirty-one feet on the west side; twenty-four feet on the east side.

Two catch basins were built; one at each side of the roadway.

The bath house was opened seven days each week from June 17 to August 24, with the following attendants; two life guards, two men in the men's bath house, one man in each locker house, one woman in the women's bath house and one woman selling tickets. One extra man was employed as a relief man so that each regular attendant could have a day off each week. One extra woman was also employed two days a week so that each attendant in the women's section could have a day off each week.

As I said in my report of last year these buildings were built in 1900 for temporary use only, and have long since outlived their usefulness.

One hundred ninety-six dollars, ninety-two cents was spent in repairing these buildings this season, with poor results, as the condition of the buildings is past repairing.

The receipts for the season were \$682.53, a decrease of \$444.81 from last year and the smallest receipts of any season since the opening.

The laundry work was done by the Quaker Laundry Company at \$2.75 per hundred suits, 65 cents per hundred stockings, and 75 cents per hundred towels.

New bleachers were built 120 feet long with five tiers high. They will accommodate about 400 people and are apparently very much appreciated.

The ball field received the usual care and attention, being kept raked and rolled.

The following material was received: 533 cubic yards loam, 1,245.7 tons cracked stone.

On January 6, twelve sixty-candle power lights were installed by the Cambridge Electric Light Company, on the park roadway between Magazine and River Streets, the cost of these lights being \$26.72 per light per year.

On March 20, the sixteen Welsbach lights on the park road between Magazine and Brookline Streets were replaced by twelve forty-candle lights furnished by the same company. This change was due to the increased price of the naphtha lamp, which was \$7.90 per lamp per year.

SECTION E

(Area, 1.77 acres)

Section E extends from the north line of River Street to the north line of Western Avenue.

It is the intention of the Commissioners to construct this section the coming season and have it open for public travel by the first of August. When completed it will fill a longfelt want as it will permit a continuous drive along the bank of the river from the Cambridge Bridge to the Hospital, about three and three-quarter miles.

In March an agreement was made with the Walsh Brothers con-

tractors to take down and remove all the buildings belonging to the department adjoining the property of the Riverside Press and to dispose of all the material. In consideration of this the contractor is to receive all the material contained in said buildings.

On February 13 the department advertised for 850 lineal feet of coping for the sea wall. The lowest bid being \$1.20 per foot, this contract has not yet been awarded.

SECTION F

(Area, 13.89 acres)

Section F extends from the north line of Western Avenue to the east line of Boylston Street.

Seventeen Welsbach lights have been maintained during the year.

This action received the usual attention. Two men were employed during the spring and summer months caring for the grass and shrubbery.

The forty-foot roadway was patched and received two coats of oil. This is a gravel road and is constantly used by automobiles. We find it very difficult to keep it in fair condition, especially between Western Avenue and DeWolfe Street. Several ruts are now visible after the winter and will need repairing the coming season.

Thirty-three trees were planted.

SECTION G

(Area, 16.07 acres)

Section G extends from the west line of Boylston Street to the east line of the land of the Stillman Infirmary.

This section received the same care and treatment as Section F. with one exception, four men were employed instead of two.

In the building of the new bridge by the Metropolitan Park Commissioners, which will necessitate several changes on our park at this point as the grade is about five feet higher than our park grade, several of the shrubs in the beds on both sides of the street as well as six young elm trees had to be cut down.

Thirteen trees were planted here.

SECTION H

(Area, 1.44 acres)

Section H extends from the east line of the land of the Stillman Infirmary to the Metropolitan taking at Gerry's landing.

This section was cared for by the men employed on Section G.

LONGFELLOW PARK

(Area, 2.14 acres)

This park received the usual attention and care such as cutting the grass, cleaning the shrubbery beds and walks.

CAMBRIDGE COMMON

The work that was commenced last year at the Memorial Gate was completed in May. Two hundred and sixty shrubs were planted at each side of the entrance.

Seventy-four and one-half square yards granolithic walk were laid at the entrance to Massachusetts Avenue.

Seventy-five feet of the sidewalk was bricked to extend the walk to the entrance at Garden Street.

The board walks are in very poor condition and require repairing every year when they are relaid in the fall.

I would recommend that one granolithic walk be laid here each year. By doing this the board walks would be eliminated in a few years.

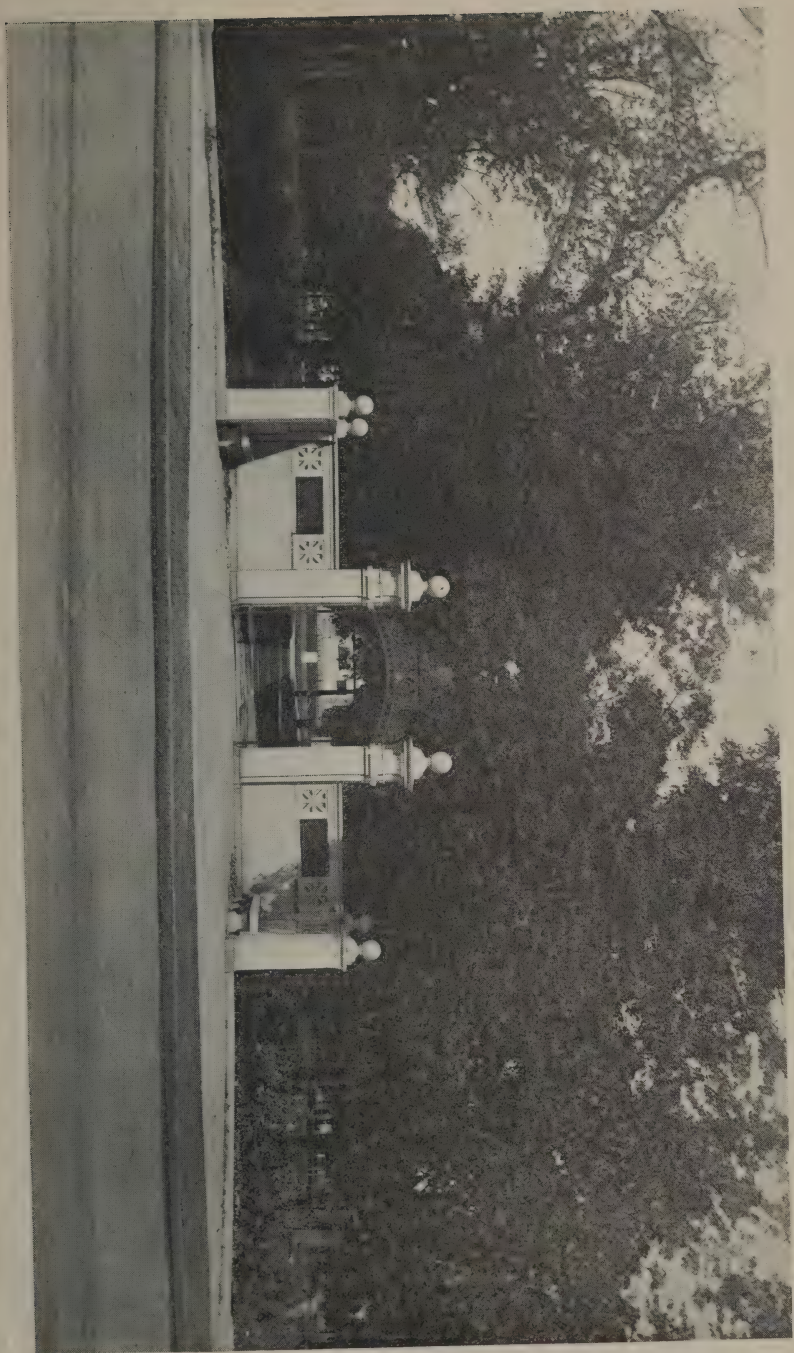
Fifty-five young maple trees and one elm tree were planted.

The lawns adjoining the entrance to the subway were completed early in the spring, this work being done by the Boston Elevated Railroad Company.

PUBLIC LIBRARY

The flagpole that originally stood on Cambridge Common had to be removed on account of the subway entrance.

At the request of the School Committee it was set on the grounds in front of the Public Library, as this was considered an ideal spot. The School Committee agreed to take entire care of the flag and pole.



Memorial Gateway, Cambridge Common

The work of resetting and repainting of the pole was done by the subway contractor without expense to the City.

The grounds received the usual care, one man being employed the entire season.

FORT WASHINGTON AND HASTINGS SQUARE

The usual care was given both these squares during the season.

CITY HALL

The grounds around City Hall received a coat of sub-soil and fertilizer was used. It was thoroughly rolled and during the dry season one man was employed three hours each day watering the grass.

The appearance of the grounds was much better than in former years.

WINTHROP SQUARE

Three young trees were planted here to replace those that had died.

The grounds received the usual care by the men who care for Section F.

BROADWAY COMMON

About 15,000 square feet of the southwest corner were set aside, together with the old Stearns School lot containing 10,000 square feet, making a total of 25,000 square feet for playground purposes.

All the shrubs on the lot were brought to the Nursery and planted.

All the surplus material on the Stearns School lot, about 220 yards, was teamed to Section C and used for filling.

An eight-foot wire fence was erected on the line between the Methodist Episcopal Church and the playground. Eight new steel screens were placed on the church windows to prevent them from being broken.

Two hundred sixty-one feet of four and one-half iron picket fence were erected across the Common from the alley to the entrance on Harvard Street. This was done to divide the park and playground

with the hope that the park can now be kept in a presentable condition. A new iron fence of the same style was erected around the Stearns School lot on Harvard Street and the alley.

A new brick walk was laid along the east side on the entrance from Harvard Street to the Common one hundred and ten feet long and ten feet wide.

On account of this Common being used for a playground for the past two years it was necessary to spade and regrade all the lawns and they are now ready for seeding.

Posts were set around the different spaces that are to be used for lawns and a strip of fence wire was placed on top.

The base of the flag-pole was in such a condition that it was necessary to remove the pole, eight feet cut off the base, reset it and repaint it. It is now in fair condition.

An eight foot brick walk was laid from the flag-pole to Broadway, a distance of about 150 feet.

DANA SQUARE

This square has also been used as a playground for the past two years.

A new picket iron fence four feet, eight inches high was erected all around the Square by the W. A. Snow Iron Works at a cost of \$937.00.

Two granolithic walks were built by the F. O. White Construction Company at a cost of \$1.34 per square yard amounting to \$304.18.

The lawns were spaded and graded and a border sod laid.

Shrubs were planted in each of the eight corners and the four centres.

One unnecessary tree was removed and the rest trimmed.

A fence was built to protect the lawns.

This square when seeded and when the grass and shrubs have grown will be one of the best in our park system.

HENDERSON SQUARE

This square received a covering of loam to the depth of one foot.

Grass seed was sown, and shrubs planted in the corners, making a great improvement to the surroundings.

EAST CAMBRIDGE EMBANKMENT

(Area, 8.35 acres)

No construction work was done here this year.

A new floating bath house was opened June 17, 1912. It was placed about half way between the Cambridge and Craigie Bridges. It was opened as a public bath house seven days a week. Six days of each week from 9 A. M. to 9 P. M. were reserved for men and boys.

Thursday of each week was reserved for women and was open from twelve to eight with a woman attendant.

This bath house was very much needed in this section of the City and was greatly appreciated, especially by the men and boys, as the accompanying table will show.

During the very hot weather the bath house was not large enough to accommodate all those who desired to use it, notwithstanding it is 80 feet long and 32 feet wide.

On Saturday afternoons and Sundays there have been one hundred to one hundred and fifty waiting in line for their turn. Although the women had the privilege of the use of the bath house but one day in the week the attendance was good.

The attendance at the Floating bath house was as follows:

1912	Boys and Men	Girls and Women
June	12,250	250
July	22,100	1,700
August	14,600	1,250
September	4,047	200
	<hr/> 53,267	<hr/> 3,400
Grand total	56,667	

RINDGE FIELD

(Area, 11.28 acres)

Two hundred and twenty-six and fifty-nine hundredths cubic yards of good binding gravel were spread over the area around the building. This has been a great benefit, as there is no trouble now from dust as heretofore.

A new drinking fountain has been erected on the west side of the field by the Water Department.

The ball field was kept in good condition during the season. It is the best patronized field in the City. On Saturdays and holidays matched games are played by the local teams. The Boston newspaper men and the Cambridge Trades League played most of their games here.

The Fourth of July celebration under the direction of the Committee of the City Government was as follows:

Three games of baseball, band concert and fireworks in the evening.

Six games of football were played during the season.

The shrubbery was trimmed, the shrubbery beds cleaned.

Eight maple trees were planted.

A plank walk was laid across the field from the building to Yerxa Road.

The walls in the lounging room were painted and the wood work was varnished.

The shower baths are growing more popular as the following table will show.

On account of the very mild weather this winter there were only seven days that skating could be enjoyed.

The following is an account of Nursery stock:

TREES

<i>Acer platanoides</i>	528
“ <i>saccharum</i>	23
<i>Platanus orientalis</i>	3
<i>Quercus rubra</i>	10
<i>Tilia Americana</i>	39
<i>Ulmus Americana</i>	30

SHRUBS

<i>Amorpha fruticosa</i>	7
<i>Andromeda japonica</i>	8
<i>Aralia pentaphylla</i>	50
<i>Azalea amoena</i>	10
<i>Baccharis halimifolia</i>	6
<i>Berberis thunbergii</i>	800
“ <i>vulgaris</i>	5
<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>	20
<i>Calycanthus floridus</i>	21
<i>Caragana arborescens</i>	43
<i>Celastrus scandens</i>	38
<i>Clethra alnifolia</i>	90
<i>Cornus florida</i>	21
“ <i>paniculata</i>	19
“ <i>sericea</i>	8
“ <i>sanguinea</i>	8
<i>Crataegus oxycantha</i>	42
<i>Deutzia crenata</i>	10
“ <i>gracilis</i>	10
<i>Elegans longpupes</i>	9
<i>Euonymus radicans</i>	150
<i>Exochorda grandiflora</i>	17
<i>Forsythia fortunei</i>	100
“ <i>viridissima</i>	70
<i>Hydrangea asplenifolia</i>	40
“ <i>paniculata</i>	
<i>Ilex glabra</i>	

<i>Ilex verticillata</i>	20
<i>Kalmia latifolia</i>	32
<i>Ligustrum ibota</i>	86
" <i>ovalifolium</i>	9
" <i>vulgaris</i>	120
<i>Ligustrum ovalifolium</i>	50
<i>Lonicera brachypoda</i>	20
" <i>halliana</i>	60
" <i>tatarica alba</i>	30
" <i>tatarica</i>	8
<i>Mahonia aquifolia</i>	17
<i>Philadelphus coronarius</i>	20
<i>Rhamnus catharticus</i>	45
<i>Rhus aromatica</i>	30
" <i>canadensis</i>	2
<i>Ribes aureum</i>	5
<i>Robinia hispida</i>	3
<i>Rosa multiflora</i>	1
" <i>nitida</i>	3
" <i>robina</i>	150
" <i>rugosa</i>	20
" <i>wichuraiana</i>	21
<i>Spiraea Anthony waterer</i>	30
" <i>bumalda</i>	5
" <i>pruniflora</i>	9
" <i>van Houttei</i>	50
" <i>thunbergii</i>	40
<i>Staphylea trifolia</i>	16
<i>Stephanandra flexuosa</i>	232
<i>Symphoricarpos vulgaris</i>	10
<i>Syringa vulgaris</i>	14
<i>Viburnum cassinoides</i>	5
" <i>dentatum</i>	40
" <i>lantana</i>	2
" <i>lentago</i>	18
" <i>opulis</i>	1
" <i>opulis nana</i>	3
" <i>tomentosa</i>	200
<i>Vinca minor</i>	100
<i>Xanthorrhiza apifolia</i>	

The following table shows the appreciation of the shower baths at the Shelter Building last year:

	Men	Girls and Women	Boys
1912			
April	578	...	50
May	750	50	200
June	740	200	250
July	998	475	400
August	846	320	360
September	834	80	100
October	500	23	40
November	412	...	49
December	390	...	20
1913			
January	432	...	35
February	365	...	29
March	510	...	39
Totals	7,355	1,148	1,572
Grand total	10,075		

CAMBRIDGE FIELD AND SHELTER

(Area, 12.64 acres)

The shrubbery beds were thoroughly cleaned, the shrubs trimmed and the grass was kept in good condition.

The shrubs in the beds around the playground have suffered a great deal, being trampled upon by the men and boys in pursuit of balls which enter or go beyond the limit of the ball field. I can suggest no remedy only a proper fencing of the whole field. This to my mind is the only way that will give proper protection to the shrubbery as it is natural for the players to follow the ball irrespective of what damage they* do.

The condition of the surface of this field is growing worse every year. When this ball field was constructed it was finished with a very coarse gravel, consequently the stones keep coming to the surface so much that it is necessary to rake it after every ball game. I would recommend that a surfacing of a good sandy loam be spread over the entire field. This, I believe, would be the final solution of the difficulty and would last many years with very little expense.

The shower baths were used to a great extent and have become a very necessary and proper institution.

During the year the old shower baths were remodelled and ten sets of new and improved fixtures installed. An extension was made and five additional showers were added with up-to-date fixtures.

A new boiler and heater were installed and at present we are able to supply the patrons with all the hot water they require as the new heater is more direct and the capacity of the boiler doubled. A new concrete floor was laid in the shower bath room. An addition of four feet was added to the brick wall.

The Fourth of July celebration was under the management of a Committee of the City Government. Ball games and running matches were successfully carried out, ending with a display of fireworks in the evening.

As usual the Central Labor Union had the exclusive use of the field and building on Labor Day, and sports and games of all kinds were enjoyed.

The summer playground work will be found in the report of the Supervisor of Instruction.

The following is an account of stock on hand at the field:

600 feet rope
 426 towels
 250 feet fire hose
 100 feet garden hose
 40 tons coal
 30 lbs. nails
 20 iron rakes
 200 rolls toilet paper
 6 wooden shovels
 5 ash barrels
 5 short-handled shovels
 4 iron rakes
 4 lawn mowers
 4 wooden rakes
 1 iron ladder
 1 step ladder
 1 flag
 1 hoe
 3 scufflers
 3 long-handled shovels
 3 picks
 3 spades
 3 floor brushes
 2 wheelbarrows (iron)
 2 push brooms
 2 forks
 2 trimming shears
 1 step ladder
 1 box soap
 1 cross cut saw
 1 feather duster
 1 reel for fire hose
 1 hand brush
 1 hand saw
 1 platform truck
 1 set bases
 1 monkey wrench
 1 pair pliers

The shower baths continue to increase in popularity as is shown by the following account of bathers:

1912	Boys	Girls	Women	Men
April	747	...	611	2,832
May	893	...	1,126	3,623
June	2,470	249	803	6,136
July	8,266	...	938	5,192
August	942	...	275	816
September .....	...	...	...	542
October	745	...	731	2,929
November	916	...	964	2,832
December	372	...	770	2,925
January, 1913	598	...	929	2,740
February	278	...	535	2,165
March	98	...	517	2,713
Totals	16,325	249	8,199	35,445
Grand total	60,218			

BROWN TAIL MOTH AND ELM LEAF BEETLE EXTERMINATION

Two thousand five hundred private estates were cleaned of gypsy and brown tail moths during the winter months.

Two thousand seven hundred and fifty trees were cleaned.

Although both these pests are on the decline in this city it is still necessary to go over the ground just as carefully as heretofore in order to prevent a recurrence of the trouble we had with them in former years.

All the trees were sprayed with arsenate of lead in order to destroy the elm leaf beetle. This treatment has been very successful as we have seen no effects of their destructive work the past few years.

The leopard moth still continues to spread and is doing a great amount of harm to our trees. While three years ago it was only found in the vicinity of Harvard College, this year we have found it as far west as Lakeview Avenue, as far east as Prospect Street, as far north as Russell Street. No successful remedy has as yet been found to combat it.

SHADE TREES

A great amount of work has been done on shade trees the past year.

One thousand eighty-five trees were planted, 859 of these were planted on the various streets throughout the city, 66 on the Cambridge Common, 150 on the River Parkway, 10 on the Cambridge Field.

This is the largest number of trees that the department has planted in any one year.

Two hundred ninety dead trees, 118 stumps, 69 heads removed. These stumps are still standing and should be removed as soon as possible. There are also 276 dead and dying trees throughout the City that will have to be removed the coming season.

The \$3,500 appropriation for the removal of dead trees removed 126 dead trees, 49 stumps. The average cost of each tree was \$22, and an average of \$14.86 for each stump.

Five hundred and seventy-two wire guards were repaired; 1,317 new wire guards were put on; 631 trees were trimmed.



PLAYGROUND ACTIVITIES

Thorndike Field

THORNDIKE FIELD

This field is situated in the easterly part of the City in a cosmopolitan district. It is bounded on the north by property on Spring Street, on the east by property on Sixth Street, on the west by Ninth Street and on the south by Charles Street. The field contains about three acres. It is divided into two parts, two and one-quarter acres in one large field and three-quarters acre in the small field.

The land was purchased by the former Playground Commissioners and work of construction was begun by them in 1911. This work was continued under their supervision until July 1, 1912, when by an order of the City Government the work of this Commission was given over to the Park Department, which Board was increased from three to five members.

The greater part of the construction work of this field was completed while under the control of the Playground Commission; the remainder of the work is near completion.

This field, formerly a marsh land, had been filled and levelled with material taken from the non-accepted end of Vine Street, so that Vine Street now ends at the property line on Sixth Street. Clay had been spread ten inches deep over one half of the field. About 400 yards of gravel had been dumped in loads. Trees and shrubs had been planted. An eight-foot link wire fence with gates and concrete posts had been placed across the field to serve as a dividing line between the large and small playgrounds. Sewer has been laid and catch basins have been built. The water system had been installed. Concrete benches, a wading pool, pergolas, bleachers, a jumping pit and a running track were all being completed. Contracts had been made for furnishing and erecting athletic apparatus.

The Park Commissioners took control on July 1, 1912. The greater part of their work consisted in finishing what the Playground Commissioners had well under way. One-half of the depth of clay which had been previously spread over one-half of the field, was, after due consideration, removed and spread over the remainder of the field. Over this area twelve inches of good yellow loam were spread and rolled. This makes an excellent surface as it is cohesive, stoneless and elastic. Its only defect seems to be the dust which arises from it during the dry season. This could be easily overcome by the application of some of the dust layers that are on the market.

The baseball diamond was laid out. A back stop was built. Wooden benches were erected near the sand boxes, under the pergolas

in order that the mothers might have some place to rest while their children were playing in the sand boxes. A link wire fence was erected around the small playground between Charles Street and Vine Street on the boundary line of the property on Sixth Street. This fence was extended along Vine Street as far as the fence that now divides the two playgrounds. This makes an enclosure around the entire field.

The large field consists of the following: One combination gymnasium outfit for boys, sixteen feet high, with the following apparatus:

- 1 long steel-lined shute
- 1 formed steel inclined ladder with guard rails
- 1 pair formed steel incline poles
- 1 drop forged steel flexible ladders with anchors
- 2 steel climbing poles with anchors
- 1 pair ball bearing flying rings
- 2 steel horizontal bars
- 1 pair jump standards 8 feet high
- 1 pair jump standards provided for varying adjustments
- 1 pair giant stride
- 2 basket ball outfits
- 1 jumping pit
- 1 ball-bearing steel trapeze

The small field consists of the following:

- 1 wading pool, 40 by 25 feet
- 4 steel-lined shutes, 16 feet long, placed on concrete embankment
- Pergolas with seats and tables
- Pergolas with swings for children
- One ten feet swing outfit
- 2 see-saw outfits, each consisting of 412 feet
- Teeter boards, and a pipe frame 16 feet long
- 6 kindergarten box chair swings all complete
- 1 eight feet swing outfit
- 1 12-feet swing outfit
- 1 merry-go-round

One man was employed to take charge of the field.

MERRILL SCHOOL YARD

This school yard, which has been used as a playground, is situated in a very densely populated part of the city.

A new fence should be erected around the entire yard as the present one is in very poor as well as a dangerous condition.

The grounds should be regraded and the drainage re-arranged, as it is very difficult to hold water for flooding purposes.

FLETCHER SCHOOL YARD

The surplus material that had been dumped here for the past two years was removed and taken to Section C on the River Parkway. The grounds are now ready to receive a finishing coat of either loam or gravel. A new fence should also be erected around the entire yard as the present one is in as bad condition as the one at the Merrill School.

The grounds and fences around the following school yards should receive attention the coming season: Ellis, Houghton, Morse, Peabody, Roberts and Wellington.

All these repairs are absolutely necessary if the children are to receive the full benefit from these playgrounds.

A complete account of the work done during the summer on the various playgrounds of the city may be found in the report of the Supervisor of Athletic Instruction.

A complete account of the work done at Russell Field may be found in the report of the Park Commissioners.

The department purchased an automobile for the use of the Superintendent at a cost of \$625; up to the present time it has given very satisfactory service.

THE YEAR'S EXPENDITURES

The expense of the department for the financial year of 1912 are shown in the following summary of the departmental accounts:

PARK LOANS

(Lands and Construction)

Amount appropriated July 8th, 1912	\$50,000 00
Amount transferred July 25th, 1912, to Dana Square	1,100 00
	<hr/>
	\$48,900 00

EXPENDED

River Parkway, Section A:

Loam	\$5,217 90
Payrolls	1,858 15
New iron fence	1,445 38
Teaming	88 50
Advertising	11 02
Hardware, tools, etc.	2 58

\$8,623 53

<i>Amounts carried forward</i>	\$8,623 53	\$48,900 00
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PARK LOANS—Continued

Amounts brought forward \$8,623 53 \$48,900 00

River Parkway, Section C:

Payrolls	\$3,402 16
Teaming	1,166 25
Cracked stone	1,159 13
Loam	1,111 41
Filling	702 31
Tarvia	524 53
Cinders	358 50
Oil for roadway	49 88
Edgestone	45 86
Ashes	27 00
Hardware, tools, etc.	18 42
Sewer pipe and brick	12 76
Stakes for engineers	9 90
Lumber	7 65
Advertising	4 04

8,599 80

River Parkway, Section D:

Payrolls	\$1,893 29
Cracked stone	1,756 62
Tarvia for roadway	1,037 54
Loam	522 56
Bleachers, contract	443 00
Teaming	203 94
Oil for roadway	127 01
Stakes for engineers	20 40
Advertising	15 11
Hardware, tools, etc.	13 23
Filling	5 50

6,038 20

River Parkway, Section E:

Advertising	\$8 82
Payrolls	2 25

11 07

Total amount 23,272 60

Balance unexpended \$24,727 40

FLOATING BATH HOUSE

Amount of unused balance of 1911 appropriation reappropriated April 4, 1912 \$3,476 72

Amount transferred November 14th, 1912, to Dana Square 16 72

\$3,460 00

EXPENDED

Balance of contract \$3,460 00

PARK DEPARTMENT

31

PARK LOANS—Continued

DANA SQUARE

Amount appropriated July 25, 1912, transferred from Sections A, B, D, F, G and H	\$1,100 00
Amount transferred November 14, 1912, from Floating Bath House...	16 72
	<u>\$1,116 72</u>

EXPENDED

New iron fence	\$937 00
Payrolls	146 10
Installing hydrant	25 05
Advertising	3 27
	<u> </u>
Total amount	\$1,111 42
Balance unexpended	<u><u>\$5 30</u></u>

GRANOLITHIC WALKS, CAMBRIDGE FIELD AND REARRANGEMENT
OF MEMORIAL GATEWAY, CAMBRIDGE COMMON

Amount of unused balance of 1911 appropriation reappropriated April 4, 1912	\$112 30
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EXPENDED

Construction of granolithic walk in front of gateway....	\$107 28
Shrubs for planting at Gateway	4 50
	<u> </u>
Total amount	111 78
Balance unexpended	<u><u>\$0 52</u></u>

PLAYGROUND LOANS

CONSTRUCTION—LAND FOR PLAYGROUNDS

Amount of unused balance of 1911 appropriation reappropriated April 4, 1912	\$4,365 00
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EXPENDED

Land at Mill Pond	\$600 00
Total amount	600 00
	<u> </u>
Balance unexpended	<u><u>\$3,765 00</u></u>

PLAYGROUND LOANS—Continued

CONSTRUCTION AND EQUIPMENT, RUSSELL FIELD

Amount appropriated August 9, 1912..... \$35,000 00

EXPENDED

Contract for building bleachers, etc. (partial payment)...	\$16,306 25
Contract for grading, filling, etc.	10,456 00
Contract with architect	1,963 86
Payrolls	177 00
Bases for ball field	10 34
Advertising	10 25
Fittings for flag-pole	1 91

Total amount	28,925 61
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Balance unexpended	\$6,074 39
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PARK MAINTENANCE

RIVER PARKWAY, SECTIONS A, B, D, F, G AND H

Amount appropriated June 3, 1912 \$8,367 00

EXPENDED

Section A:

Lighting.....	\$170 43
Repairing iron fence.....	135 00
Oiling roadway.....	108 75
Painting iron fence	41 08
Trees.....	9 90
Hose for tying trees	3 47
Advertising	2 38

\$471 01

Section B:

Payrolls	\$1,445 23
Lighting	758 80
Repairing iron fence.....	710 51
Oiling roadway	206 27
Painting iron fence	41 08
Signs (painting and lettering)	15 19
Hardware, tools, etc.	6 67
Teaming	12 00
Advertising	6 12
Hose for tying trees	3 47
Trees.....	2 20

3,207 54

Section C:

Trees.....	\$61 60
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61 60

Amounts carried forward	\$3,740 15	\$8,367 00
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PARK MAINTENANCE—Continued

<i>Amounts brought forward</i>	\$3,740 15	\$8,367 00
Section D:		
Payrolls	\$667 42	
Lighting (Welsbach St. Ltg. Co.)	520 07	
Lighting (Camb. Elec. Lght. Co.)	49 13	
Trees.....	40 70	
Flooding field for skating	6 68	
Hardware	60	
	<hr/>	1,284 60
Section F:		
Payrolls	\$642 12	
Lighting	496 02	
Trees.....	36 30	
Oiling roadway	25 40	
Teaming	9 00	
	<hr/>	1,208 84
Sections G and H:		
Payrolls	\$1,079 51	
Lighting	747 69	
Oiling roadway	182 32	
Fence posts	37 44	
Teaming	15 00	
Trees.....	14 30	
Hardware	60	
	<hr/>	2,076 86
Total amount		8,310 45
Balance unexpended		<u>\$56 55</u>

CAMBRIDGE FIELD AND SHELTER

Amount appropriated June 3, 1912	\$6,679 50
Amount appropriated October 31, 1912	300 00
	<hr/>
	\$6,979 50
Amount transferred from Reserve Fund	4 31
	<hr/>
	\$6,983 81

EXPENDED

THE FIELD

Payrolls	\$2,052 41	
Lighting	623 10	
Teaming	42 00	
Fence posts	40 13	
Trees.....	31 25	
Lumber repairs board walks	15 24	
Slats for settees.....	12 32	
Hardware, tools, etc.	7 03	
Cracked stone	5 74	
Saw filing	2 25	
	<hr/>	\$2,831 47
<i>Amounts carried forward</i>	\$2,831 47	\$6,983 81

PARK MAINTENANCE—Continued

<i>Amounts brought forward</i>	\$2,831 47	\$6,983 81
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THE SHELTER

Payrolls	\$2,385 62	
Installation of new showers and new heater	855 20	
Coal	423 00	
Electrical work	55 85	
Lining ceiling with zinc	55 00	
Laundering towels	44 92	
Towels	44 10	
Paint, hardware, tools, etc.	40 25	
Alteration to building on account of new showers	38 74	
Supplies	33 37	
Plumbing repairs	22 13	
Soap	17 28	
Toilet paper	15 51	
Building wall in basement	9 80	
Advertising	4 75	
Repairs	4 35	
Lighting	102 47	
	<hr/>	
	4,152 34	
Total amount		\$6,983 81
Balance unexpended		<hr/>

BROWN TAIL MOTH EXTERMINATION

Amount appropriated June 3, 1912	\$6,000 00
Amount transferred March 6, 1913, from Maintenance, Thorndike Field	500 00
Amount transferred March 6, 1913, from Maintenance, Rindge Field ..	200 00
Amount transferred March 7, 1913, from Maintenance, Reserve Fund ..	100 00
	<hr/>
	\$6,800 00

EXPENDED

Payrolls	\$5,545 25	
Arsenate of lead	513 30	
Teaming	255 00	
Care and burial of injured employee	157 36	
Repairs spraying machine	55 96	
New ladders and repairs	64 48	
Printing "Notices to Property Owners"	34 30	
Hardware, tools, etc.	34 25	
Postage stamps	30 00	
Stationery	20 51	
Filing cases	18 00	
Gasoline	14 69	
Gypsine	13 93	
Repairs, hose	1 20	
Expressage .....	.85	
	<hr/>	
Total amount		6,759 08
Balance unexpended		<hr/>
		\$40 92

PARK MAINTENANCE—Continued

SHADE TREES

Amount appropriated June 3, 1912	\$5,000 00
Amount transferred October 10, 1912, to Maintenance, Removal Dead Trees.....	202 28
	<hr/>
	\$4,797 72
Amount transferred November 14, 1912, from Maintenance, Floating Bath House	234 47
	<hr/>
	\$5,032 19

EXPENDED

Payrolls	\$3,048 65
Trees.....	887 50
Tree poles	352 45
Teaming	340 00
Loam for tree planting	260 00
Hardware, tools, etc.	80 50
Old hose	17 01
Hydrant repairs (damage caused by tree falling).....	13 32
Saw filing	9 84
Horse shoeing	6 99
Repairs light (damage caused by tree falling).....	5 45
Stationery	5 00
Bricks, repairs sidewalks	1 75
Sharpening tools	1 66
	<hr/>
Total amount	5,030 12
	<hr/>
Balance unexpended	\$2 07
	<hr/>

COMMONS, SQUARES AND PUBLIC GROUNDS

Amount appropriated June 3, 1912	\$4,942 00
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EXPENDED

Payrolls	\$4,062 77
Lighting	340 64
Lumber, repairs board walks	106 87
Repairs flag-pole, Broadway Common	89 67
Loam	60 20
Teaming	45 00
Lawn seed	44 80
Fence posts	36 00
Shrubs, Gateway, Common	37 25
Housing top-masts, fixing hilliards	26 00
Hardware, tools, etc.....	24 89
Slats for settees.....	14 70
Flags for Broadway Common and Ft. Washington	14 15
Machine oil	12 75
Bricks (used at Memorial Gateway)	11 73
Printing Rules and Regulations	7 00
Sand	4 00
Advertising	3 24
	<hr/>
Total amount	4,941 66
	<hr/>
Balance unexpended	\$0 34
	<hr/>

PARK MAINTENANCE—Continued

RINDGE FIELD AND SHELTER

Amount appropriated June 3, 1912	\$3,898 86
Amount appropriated June 20, 1912	300 00
	<hr/>
	\$4,198 86
Amount transferred March 6, 1913, to Maintenance, Brown Tail Moth Extermination	200 00
	<hr/>
	\$3,998 86

EXPENDED

THE FIELD

Payrolls	\$1,746 40
Gravel	249 24
Lighting (Camb. Elec. Light. Co.)	173 28
Lighting (Welsbach Street Ltg. Co.)	59 19
Building back stop	14 70
Bases for fields	2 75
Sewer pipe	2 18
Cement	1 05
	<hr/>
	\$2,248 79

THE SHELTER

Payrolls	\$1,463 99
Coal	135 35
Towels	27 00
Laundering towels	24 76
Repairs	22 37
Soap	18 82
Supplies	18 19
Lighting	13 68
Toilet paper	9 01
Medicinal supplies	1 75
	<hr/>
	1,734 92
Total amount	<hr/>
	3,983 71
Balance unexpended	<hr/>
	\$15 15

REMOVAL OF DEAD TREES

Amount appropriated June 3, 1912	\$3,500 00
Amount transferred October 10, 1912, from Maintenance, Shade Trees	202 28
	<hr/>
	\$3,702 28

EXPENDED

Payrolls	\$3,296 46
Teaming	300 00
Hardware, tools, etc.	29 76
Repairing tools	26 05
Horse shoeing	23 16
Sharpening saws	21 05
Skids and repairs	3 30
Harness repairs and supplies	2 50
	<hr/>
Total amount	<hr/>
	3,702 28

PARK MAINTENANCE—Continued

SALARIES—PLAYGROUNDS

Amount appropriated June 3, 1912	\$2,750 00
Amount appropriated August 8, 1912	325 00
	<hr/>
	\$3,075 00
Amount transferred November 14, 1912, to General Account	79 50
	<hr/>
	\$2,995 50

EXPENDED

Salaries of Teachers and Assistants	\$2,995 50
	<hr/>

SALARIES—OFFICE

Amount appropriated June 3, 1912	\$2,790 46
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EXPENDED

Salary of General Superintendent	\$2,000 00
Salary of clerk and bookkeeper	779 34
	<hr/>
Total amount	2,779 34
	<hr/>
Balance unexpended	\$11 12
	<hr/>

BATH HOUSE

Amount appropriated June 3, 1912	\$1,725 00
Amount transferred November 14, 1912, from Maintenance, Floating Bath House	135 63
	<hr/>
	\$1,860 63

EXPENDED

Payrolls	\$1,175 97
Repairing buildings	196 62
Laundering suits, towels, etc.	122 42
Bathing suits	170 00
Lighting houses and beach	117 24
Plumbing repairs	22 81
Disinfectant	15 57
Stationery	13 00
Supplies (needles, etc.)	12 90
Printing and stock	6 50
Badges	4 50
Hardware, tools, etc.	1 86
Medicinal supplies	1 24
	<hr/>
Total amount	1,860 63
	<hr/>

PARK MAINTENANCE—Continued

GENERAL ACCOUNT

Amount appropriated June 3, 1912	\$1,511 00
Amount transferred June 24, 1912, to Street Department, Maintenance	432 00
	<hr/> \$1,079 00
Amount transferred September 16, 1912, from Maintenance, Street Department	125 00
	<hr/> \$1,204 00
Amount transferred November 14, 1912	
From Maintenance, Floating Bath House	\$100 00
From Maintenance, General Expenses	133 92
From Maintenance, Salaries	
From Maintenance, Salaries—Playgrounds	79 50
	<hr/> 1,517 42
Amount transferred March 6, 1913, from Maintenance, Thorndike Field	50 00
	<hr/> \$1,567 42

EXPENDED

Automobile	\$625 00
Telephone service	153 49
Printing and binding annual report	126 00
Board of horse	118 62
Entertaining committees	117 25
Printing and stock	54 31
Stationery	53 25
Gasoline and lubricating oil	47 48
Exchange of typewriter	45 50
Horse shoeing	41 80
Auto repairs and supplies	33 83
Payrolls and rules (printing)	24 50
Postage stamps and postal cards	23 96
Letter heads	21 21
Harness repairs and supplies	20 66
Hire of horse	19 50
Car tickets	10 00
Lettering stamps	7 83
Licenses to operate machine	4 00
Directory	3 92
Hardware, tools, etc.	3 67
Expenses, superintendent	3 20
Repairs, wagon	2 20
Photo supplies	1 55
Playground supplies	1 50
Repairing cabinet	66
Expressage	20
	<hr/>
Total amount	1,563 19
Balance unexpended	<hr/> \$4 23

PARK MAINTENANCE—Continued

GENERAL EXPENSES—PLAYGROUNDS

Amount appropriated June 3, 1912	\$500 00
Amount appropriated August 8, 1912.....	375 00
	<hr/>
	\$875 00
Amount transferred November 14, 1912, to General Account	133 92
	<hr/>
	\$741 08

EXPENDED

Supplies, baseballs, bats, etc.	\$254 54
Payrolls	59 63
Salary of clerk, dictation and typewriting	50 00
Orchestra, closing day	39 00
Prizes, closing day (fobs and jerseys)	73 00
Entertaining committees	37 50
Supplies, raffia, reed, etc.	37 11
Sand for boxes	36 75
Hire of automobiles	36 00
Lumber for sand boxes	19 91
Postage stamps and postal cards	18 62
Stationery	14 83
Teaming	12 00
Expressage	11 30
Car tickets	10 00
Typewriting and stock	8 25
Programs	7 00
Steps for slides	5 25
Bags for games	4 00
Incidentals	2 95
Hardware, tools, etc.	2 45
Water "Off and On"	1 00

Total amount	741 08
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FLOATING BATH HOUSE

Amount appropriated June 3, 1912	\$1,226 00
Amount transferred November 4, 1912	
To Maintenance, Bath House	\$135 63
To Maintenance, General Account	100 00
To Maintenance, Shade Trees	234 47

	470, 10
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	\$755 90
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EXPENDED

Payrolls	\$437 37
Towels	117 00
Towing house to Brookline Bridge	35 00
Bathing suits	75 00
Hardware, tools, etc.	42 18
Anchors for house	15 05
Laundering towels	14 39
Kerosene oil.....	8 00
Printing and stock	6 00
Constable badges	4 50
Supplies	1 41

Total amount	755 90
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PARK DEPARTMENT

PARK MAINTENANCE—Concluded

DANA SQUARE

Amount appropriated June 3, 1912 \$500 00

EXPENDED

Granolithic walk	\$304 18
Payrolls	125 74
Sods, for bordering	30 00
Loam	21 60
Repairs, fence	16 00

Total amount 497 52

Balance unexpended \$2 48

THORNDIKE FIELD

Amount appropriated October 3, 1912 \$1,000 00

Amount transferred March 6, 1913:

To Brown Tail Moth Extermination \$500 00

To General Account..... 50 00

Amount transferred March 25, 1913, to Merrill School

Yard 25 00

575 00

\$425 00

EXPENDED

Payrolls	\$336 09
Lighting	63 99
Hose couplings and reducers	13 23
Flooding fields for skating	4 00
Hardware, tools, etc.	3 92
Electric fixtures	3 60

Total amount 424 83

Balance unexpended \$0 17

LONGFELLOW PARK

Amount appropriated June 3, 1912..... \$250 00

EXPENDED

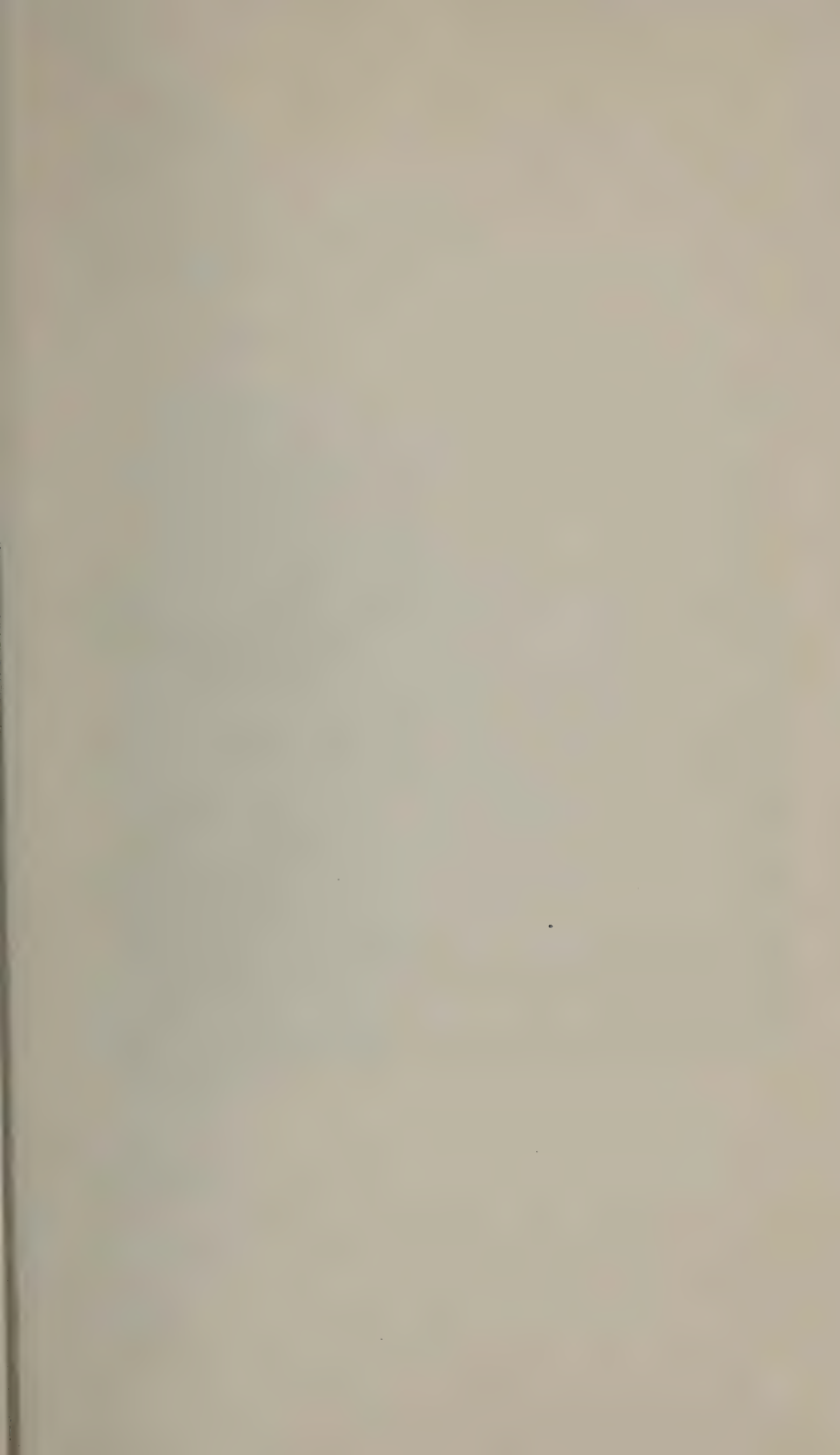
Payrolls \$244 14

Total amount 244 14

Balance unexpended \$5 86

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN F. DONNELLY,
General Superintendent of Parks.





PLAYGROUND ACTIVITIES
Thorndike Field

REPORT OF SUPERVISOR OF PLAYGROUNDS

To the Honorable Park Commission of the City of Cambridge:

Gentlemen: I have the honor to submit to you the annual report of the Supervisor of the Cambridge Playgrounds for the Season ending August 29, 1912.

The playground season of 1912 showed a marked advancement over 1911. The attendance also showed an increase over the previous season.

We maintained twelve playgrounds in all; five in school yards and seven on playground property, as follows:

Broadway Common
Captain's Island
Cambridge Field
Fresh Pond
Gore School
Merrill School
Mill Pond
Rindge Field
Roberts School
Skating Rink
Taylor School
Thorndike School

The Playgrounds opened July 8 with an unusually good attendance. The opening exercises consisted of marching, singing, etc. After that we usually had folk dancing and occupation work for the girls and athletic events for the boys, consisting of track and field events and baseball.

In the larger playgrounds a great interest was shown by the girls

in a modified game of baseball, for when they once learned the rudiments a great deal of enjoyment was obtained. The folk dancing was extremely popular, the girls all seemed to see the beauty in dances of countries alien to that of their ancestors and as the days passed the charm seemed greater as was shown by the fine demonstration of folk dancing on our Exhibition Day.

We had more enrollments in our Basketry Department than last year. In this work the younger boys and girls took an active interest. A wide range of materials were used and many attractive models made. This work should tend to make them useful men and women.

The Sewing Department more than any other, I believe, is needed today, as it enables the child to acquire a knowledge that is helpful in adult life. The work was better this year and I look for better results next season.

The baseball schedule was arranged in the four larger playgrounds—Rindge Field, Captain's Island, Mill Pond and Cambridge Field (Thorndike Field not being ready until our last week) giving a schedule of 20 games. The game of baseball is the most popular of all outdoor sports among our boys.

A certain portion of our mornings and afternoons were devoted to field and track events, which met with great favor.

The *special* events which took place during the season of 1912 are worthy of mention. During July and August trips were taken by the different playgrounds to Waverly Oaks, Revere Beach, City Point, Fenway Park, South End Ball Park (that is where the boys enjoyed a fine game of ball) and Franklin Park. These trips were thoroughly enjoyed by all children.

During the latter part of the season preliminary and final track meets were held which brought out large crowds of boys.

Our Demonstration and Field Day was held at Thorndike Field August 27, 1912, a few days before the closing of the playgrounds. These games showed to the visitors some of the activities which could have been seen during the summer at any of the twelve playgrounds.

OUR PROGRAM FOR THE DEMONSTRATION AND FIELD DAY, HELD
AUGUST 27, TUESDAY AFTERNOON, AT 3 P. M., COVERED
THE FOLLOWING:

(a) OPENING MARCH

(b) FOLK DANCING BY THE CHILDREN

1. Oats
2. Shoemaker
3. Swing

SACK RACE. Junior and Senior Boys. Three boys from each Playground.

(a) RELAY QUOIT RACE. Girls 12 years and under: 6 players on a team. Distance, 45 feet

(b) RELAY QUOIT RACE. Boys 12 years and under: 6 players on a team. Distance, 60 feet

COMBINATION RACE

(a) Junior Baseball, throwing and running 90 feet.

(b) Senior Baseball, throwing and running 90 feet
Team of six players from each playground

BEAN BAG RACE. Boys and girls from each playground

FOLK DANCES:

1. Chebogan
2. Ace of Diamonds
3. Irish Barn Dance

50 YARDS DASH—Boys 12 years and under

75 YARDS DASH—Boys 14 years and under

100 YARDS DASH—Boys 16 years and under

NOTE.—All preliminary events for boys and girls from Broadway Common, Roberts School, Cambridge Field, Gore School, Thorndike Field were held at Thorndike Field; from Rindge Field, Skating Rink, Merrill School, Mill Pond and Captain's Island were held at Captain's Island on Thursday, August 22.

RELAY RACE FOR GIRLS. Team of four girls from each playground. Distance, 200 yards

HIGH JUMP. Junior and Senior Boys

ORGANIZED GAME PERIOD, in which will be demonstrated several of the games practiced on the playgrounds, including Captain Ball, Drive Ball, Pass and Toss Relay, Dodge Ball and Day and Night, etc.

RUNNING BROAD JUMP—Junior and Senior Boys

QUARTER MILE RELAY RACE—Senior Boys

SPECIAL FOLK DANCING—Older Girls

CIRCLE FORMATION—Singing of "The Star Spangled Banner"

RECOMMENDATIONS AND OBSERVATIONS FOR 1913

The Supervisor herewith respectfully submits to the Park Commission the following recommendations which in his belief are necessary to the success of the playground activities in this city.

The Supervisor would advise a course of dances and games which, under the guise of play, will bring to many of our girls all of the healthful reaction which stimulates, both physically and morally. This the Supervisor finds would be a great help owing to the large number of girls whose physical condition is below normal owing to their being burdened with many household cares, etc.

In basketry there should be provision made for chair caning by boys. This would be helpful to them and would have the hearty endorsement of the parents.

The Sewing should be extended so that the special teacher visits the playgrounds twice a week (excepting of course Captain's Island). This would be a help to many of our girls who, through physical weakness, are unable to take part in the active games.

The Supervisor has the following recommendations to offer in regards to playgrounds now under control of the Park Department. For the season of 1913, I would recommend the following:

BROADWAY COMMON

A certain portion of this Common should be set aside for boys 14 and under, and another portion for girls (boys of over 14 years should go to the larger playgrounds). I would also suggest that a male teacher should be put in charge of the boys at this playground. There is also a need of about six small swings for the smaller children.

FRESH POND

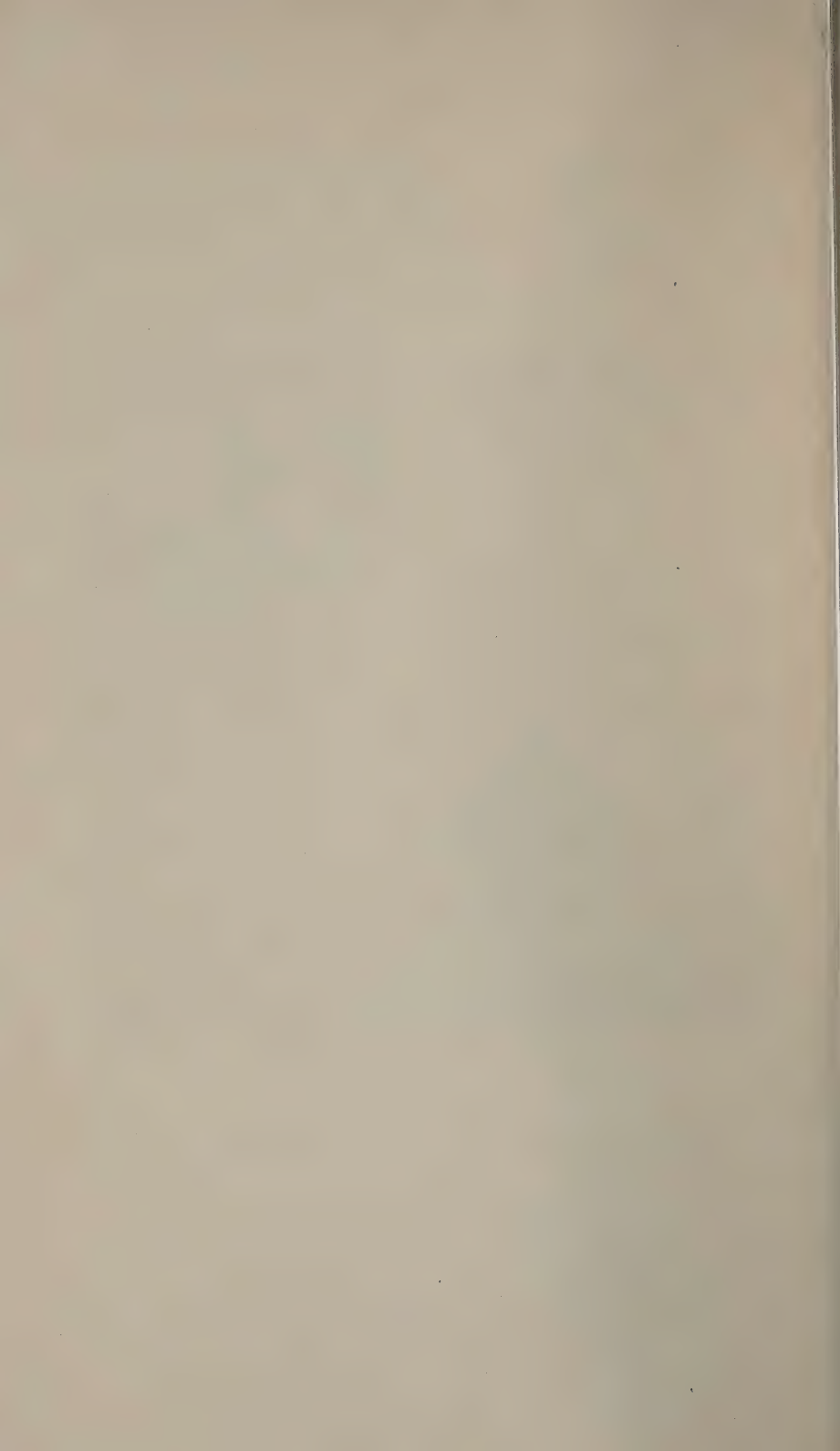
This playground was closed two weeks before the end of the season of 1912 owing to the lack of attendance. This is a small school-yard not large enough for baseball, etc., really only fitted for occupation work. I would recommend that this playground be closed during the season of 1913. If a suitable park could be had, in this section (such as we had in 1911) I know that there would be a good attendance.

ROBERTS SCHOOL

I would recommend the closing of this playground during the season of 1913. The children can either go to Cambridge Field or Broadway Common, which are only short walks. The facilities are inadequate and cause a lack of attendance.



THORNDIKE FIELD PLAYGROUND



SKATING RINK

This is an ideal spot for a playground, but a male teacher should be in charge. A Shelter House should also be provided for the storing of the material.

TAYLOR SCHOOL

Before the opening of Thorndike Field we had excellent attendance at this place, but after that date, owing to the better facilities at Thorndike Field, the children all flocked to the latter place, therefore, I would recommend the closing of this place during the season of 1913.

The attendance was taken twice a day, once in the morning and once in the afternoon and included (1) the number of boys and the number of girls in the morning and in the afternoon; (2) The total number of boys and girls each day; (3) Grand total of both boys and girls per day. (See detailed report attached). The average attendance was larger than last year and our total attendance greater by 22,562. This I consider a remarkable showing, inasmuch as we were badly in need of materials owing to insufficient appropriation. Next season if the appropriation is such as will allow us to purchase sufficient material I look for fine results. In the larger playgrounds there were weeks when we did not have any baseballs on hand, which was indeed a serious state of affairs considering how popular this game is.

RECORD OF WEEKLY ATTENDANCE, 1913

Weeks ending:	July 12	July 19	July 26	Aug. 2	Aug. 9	Aug. 16	Aug. 23	Aug. 30
Broadway Common	562	857	1,086	808	1,061	916	996	957
Cambridge Field ..	2,485	3,240	3,315	2,710	3,195	3,145	3,295	2,500
Captain's Island ..	490	505	535	365	480	470	890	400
Fresh Pond	804	527	557	450	495	291	Closed	Closed
Gore School	1,350	1,637	1,192	839	1,328	1,346	1,519	1,250
Merrill School	1,269	985	955	940	975	877	1,121	829
Mill Pond	1,348	1,577	1,960	2,057	1,817	1,842	1,932	1,423
Roberts School	554	686	831	806	861	730	787	602
Rindge Field	1,465	2,254	1,904	1,474	1,881	1,537	1,531	1,085
Skating Rink	1,077	656	780	559	623	466	391	250
Taylor School	1,672	890	722	596	588	442	Closed	Closed
Thorndike Field ...	1,532	2,198	4,046	3,153	3,960	3,983	4,627	3,826
Total weekly attendance at all 12 playgrounds	14,608	16,012	17,883	14,757	17,264	16,045	17,089	13,122
Average daily attendance each week	2,922	3,202	3,577	2,951	3,453	3,209	3,418	2,624

Total attendance during the season.....126,780

The Supervisor feels he would have neglected a privilege if he failed to mention, at this time, his sincere appreciation and thanks for the help he received from the Commission. He would pay tribute to the splendid efforts of the General Superintendent who did his utmost to ensure the success of the playgrounds.

Respectfully submitted,

B. F. SULLIVAN,

Supervisor.



